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PHOTO: COLLECTED



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Cameras roll for Eid productions

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Shooting for Eid Ul-Fitr productions have begun in full swing. After two years of the coronavirus pandemic, cast and crew members are spending



Apurba and Sabila Nur on the sets of 'Aghoton'.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSED

busy days at various shooting spots in the country, including Pubail and Gazipur. Makers are looking to explore different storylines and genres.

Shihab Shaheen just finished shooting for his Eid special tele-fiction "Aghoton" at Uttara. The single-episode production features Ziaul Faruq Apurba and Sabila Nur.

"This production is a comedy, and I hope the audience enjoys watching it as much as we enjoyed making it," says Apurba, from the sets.

"I think Shihab Shaheen's work is amazing, and this production is no different," shares Sabila Nur.

Salahuddin Lavlu has finished shooting for "Haradhonner Ekti Bagan" with Chanchal Chowdhury and Shahnaz Khushi, among others. He will soon begin shooting for his other Eid projects.

"The pandemic interrupted a lot of our work," shares Chanchal Chowdhury. "I hope things turn out to be different this year."

Mehazabien Chowdhury usually makes notable appearances in one-hour television productions throughout the year. However, she is yet to be seen in any series on television. The actress has started shooting for Eid specials, and will be seen opposite Apurba in a Muhidul Islam directorial project, among many others.

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Mosharraf Karim will be starring in multiple special productions this Eid, including "Passport", "Ohom", and "Gorom Shorkar". All of them are directed by Shamim Zaman.

"Actors are born to perform, and I am a fish in the same pond," he says. "However, I never compromise when it comes to choosing characters and scripts."

Zahid Hasan has never disappointed his fans when it comes to Eid television specials. Apart from playing charming roles, he also looks to direct various productions.

He has been preparing for his directorial ventures and plans to start shooting for them soon. "I will be seen on screen in one of my own directorial projects this time," says an excited Zahid Hasan.

Fazlur Rahman Babu has been reigning over the silver screen, television, theatre, and streaming platforms for a while. The noted actor has started shooting for his Eid productions from today. He will be busy with back-to-back shoots at different locations across and outside Dhaka, including Uttara, Pubail, and Sreemangal.

Mir Sabbir will star in two television serials this Eid, directed by Barna Nath and Saidur Rahman Russel. "I will also start shooting for one of my directorial ventures from next month," he adds.

Music world pays tribute to Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Fellow musicians paid tribute to Foo Fighters drummer Taylor Hawkins across social media. He passed away at the age of 50. The noted drummer's death was announced by the band in the midst of a festival tour of South America.

Miley Cyrus, who was part of the lineup alongside Foo Fighters at the Estereo Picnic festival in Bogota, Colombia, said she would dedicate her March 26 show to him.

Members of rock band Nickelback said they were in "utter disbelief" at the news.

Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr also expressed his condolences and wished "peace and love" for those close to Hawkins.

"God bless Taylor," he wrote.



James Bond reality show in the works

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Amazon's Prime Video recently announced a James Bond-inspired reality competition series, "007's Road to a Million."

The international race will span eight episodes with contestants vying to win £1 million in cash. They will compete in two-person teams and be tasked with passing physical obstacles as well as answering questions hidden in different locations.

Production for the show is slated to begin later this year. Bond producers Barbara Broccoli and Michael G Wilson are attached to it.

The series is set to be filmed at historic sites featured throughout the Bond franchise.

COUNTRYWIDE



The west end of this bridge on the Ratnai river in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has tilted, resulting in growing concerns of an impending disaster.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Ratnai Bridge: A disaster waiting to happen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The Ratnai Bridge on Lalmonirhat-Mughalhat road in Durakuti area of Sadar upazila has turned risky as it has tilted on the west end.

The bridge over the Ratnai river may collapse at any time and cause major accidents.

Locals said the bridge has been lying in a precarious condition for long and there have been no visible steps from the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) yet. Two years ago, the 20-kilometre stretch of the road was widened and revamped spending Tk 28 crore.

But the risky bridge was not repaired or replaced with a new one to facilitate the movement of heavy vehicles. Currently the road is off limit to heavy vehicles.

Shaha Alam, a businessman from Mogholhat area, said as trucks cannot cross the bridge they have to bring goods on light vehicles increasing the transportation costs.

Chairman of Mogholhat Union Parishad Habibur Rahman said that Ratnai Bridge is very old. It should have been declared abandoned long ago. The pillars of the bridge are now in grave danger.

The authorities concerned have been contacted on several times but no solution has been found so far, said the chairman.

Khalid Saifullah Sardar, executive engineer of RHD in Lalmonirhat, said they have got the approval and funding for the construction of a new bridge over the river at Durakuti point.

The construction work of the new bridge will start by September this year, he added.

Cry for freshwater gets louder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The crisis of safe drinking water has turned acute in south-western part of the country in the onset of summer causing untold sufferings. Both surface and underground water sources have become sparse in the area.

Bagerhat's Mongla, Rampal, Sharankhola, Morrelganj, Kachua and Chitalmari upazilas are the worst affected areas.

"All of the ponds in our area have dried up. Some have a little water which is not even suitable for bathing. We can hardly manage fresh water for cooking and drinking," said Kabir Molla, a resident of Kalmibuniya village in Kachua upazila.

"We cannot use water of nearby canals or rivers due to salinity. Very often, we become compelled to bathe in salt water. It causes skin disease," said Majid Sheikh, a resident of Chanderkhola village in the same upazila.

"Even we don't get water from deep



Rainwater harvesting tanks have been set up at the homesteads of the people living in the coastal areas thanks to DPHE. The tanks are likely to come as a respite for the people who suffer from acute freshwater crisis in summer.

PHOTO: STAR

tube well. People have to buy a jar of 20-litre fresh water at Tk 35," he added.

It is a double blow for the villagers,"

said Ruhul Sheikh of Kalmibuniya area in Kachua.

Amid such a situation, the

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has so far installed over ten thousand rainwater harvesting tanks in the affected upazilas in the last five years.

Each of the tanks has a capacity to contain 3,000 litres of water, said DPHE officials.

"The tanks have proven to be very helpful for us. We will be able to preserve rainwater for three to four months. It will save our money bringing an end to freshwater crisis," Bappi Devnath, a resident of Raripara union in Kachua upazila.

"But these are not sufficient in comparison to the demand. So, we demand more tanks be installed at every doorstep," said Asis Das Kalu, a resident of Sree Rampur village in Kachua.

Contacted, Bagerhat's DPHE Executive Engineer Joyanta Mollick said the government will continue distributing the tanks.

"We have the plan to install the tanks at every homestead gradually," he said.



Around 300 schoolgirls of different institutions in Dinajpur's Khansama upazila bring out a bicycle procession in the upazila headquarters on Thursday, vowing not to get married before they reach adulthood. Two Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)--Bhumihi Samity and Nijera Kori--organised the event.

PHOTO: COLLECTED